

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Unincorporated Communities (AS 37.05.317)****Grant Recipient: Slana****Project Title:****Slana - Slana Roads Maintenance****State Funding Requested: \$ 11,000****House District: 6 - C**

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

Slana Community Corporation is seeking funds to repair the equipment used to maintain the roads on the Slana Homestead.

Funding Plan:**Total Cost of Project: \$11,000**Funding Secured*Amount FY*Other Pending Requests*Amount FY*Anticipated Future Need*Amount FY*

There is no other funding needed

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

Slana Community Corporation is seeking funds to maintain the roads on the Slana Homestead. The Slana Community corporation currently maintains all public right of way access roads on the homestead. They currently utilize an old dozer, that was donated by the Tazlina DOT, the dozer is in need of major repairs, including rebuilding the engine.

Project Timeline:

Project will occur in 2009.

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Slana Community Corporation

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Contact Name: Joy Hobbs

Phone Number: (907) 822-3196

Address: PO Box 951 Slana, AK 99586

Email:

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? ☒ Yes ☐ No

To: Senator Albert Kookesh
Representative Bill Thomas

From: Slana Community Corporation

Re: Capital Improvement Project

Slana Community Corporation is seeking funds for a capital improvement project (FY09) for the maintenance of the roads on the Slana Homestead. The Slana Community corporation currently maintains all public right of way access roads on the homestead. We currently utilize an old dozer, that was donated by the Tazlina DOT, the dozer is in need of major repairs, including rebuilding the engine.

Project Title:

Slana Roads Maintenance.

Level of Need:

Road maintenance is a major priority and concern of the Slana Community Corporation. Without proper road maintenance, the Slana residents become trapped on their home sites, cut off from access to basic needs such as the grocery store and mail, and emergency needs such as health care. Every winter the residents become subject to isolation due to the overflow that blocks the main access road to the community.

Specific Request:

The Slana Community Corporation operates on a limited budget, and has very little infrastructure within the organization for taking on large projects. We have, however, successfully maintained community roads for the past 14 years. This is accomplished through a lot of volunteer work from community members, including volunteer mechanics, bookkeepers, grant-writers, etc. We have proven our ability to take care of our community roads, but also realize that there may be a more efficient way. Slana Community Corporation proposes two options for road maintenance:

- 1) Our primary request, which would meet immediate needs, is funding to fix our road grader, so we can continue to provide maintenance services, as we have in the past. **We will need approximately \$11,000 to cover the cost of grader repairs & operator.**
- 2) A secondary request is to gain support from the State of Alaska Department of Transportation in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding for roads maintenance. Specifically, we are wondering if the DOT can take on the regular road maintenance duties that the Slana Community Corporation is currently undertaking. This would include regular snow plow and grading service. The DOT maintains the Nabesna road, which goes right past the Slana Homestead.

Timeline:

Slana Community Corporation is available to begin work immediately on road maintenance issues, including meeting with the State of Alaska Department of Transportation to develop an MOU, and/or to begin maintenance on the road grader so that it will be ready for the 2008/2009 snow and overflow season.

Project Outline:

Upon receiving the \$11,000 for grader repair & maintenance, Slana Community Corporation will contract with a local equipment mechanic to rebuild the motor and make the necessary repairs. We also need to put proper heaters on the grader, for cold starting.

Community Funds:

Slana Community Corporation currently has \$25,000 from revenue sharing. This is designated to pay for electricity and heat for the Slana community hall, road improvements (we have received a bid for a \$25,000 road project), and grader operation. Our project list exceeds our budget.

In-kind Support:

Slana Community Corporation will provide in-kind support in the form of administrative assistance, as well as a grader operator (if we get the \$11,000 to fix the road grader).

Other Support Requested:

Again, we would like to emphasize an alternative to direct funding for roads maintenance, and request that Slana Homestead Community be added to the State Department of Transportation's service area, and be maintained through the Slana DOT station. This would offer a sustainable solution to a long term issue. The State of Alaska Department of Transportation exceeds the Slana Community Corporation in capacity to handle a road maintenance project. They already have the equipment and manpower to maintain roads. Slana Community Corporation can do it, as we have shown, but we believe it would be more efficient for the State to provide support through the DOT, in the form of a regular maintenance plan and or schedule.

Past Funding and Support:

Slana Community Corporation has received approximately \$170,000 in Capital Matching grants since 1994, for road projects. We still have several miles of road to complete. We are in the process of fundraising for these road projects. Our priority is to cap "Ridge Road", which will cost \$25,000 according to a bid from local contractor Northwind Enterprise.

This is the first time we have requested funds for this specific project.

Contact:

Joy Hobbs is the interim bookkeeper and contact person for the Slana Community Corporation. She can be reached at (907)822-3196. Her address is P.O. Box 951 Slana, Alaska 99586

Community Profile

Location:

Slana stretches along the Nabesna Road, which runs south of the Tok Cutoff at mile 63. It lies at the junction of the Slana and Copper Rivers, 53 miles southwest of Tok. Slana is located in the Chitina Recording District. The area encompasses 252.9 sq. miles of land and 0.9 sq. miles of water. Slana experiences a continental climate, with long, cold winters, and relatively warm summers. Temperature extremes range from -62 to 91. Snowfall averages 61 inches, with total precipitation of 13 inches per year.

History:

Slana is an Indian village name, derived from the river's name. The Nabesna Mine opened in 1923, which employed 60 people at its height. Over thirty different minerals were extracted from this site, although gold was the primary source of profit. It operated sporadically through the late 1940s. Slana developed rapidly in the 1980s when homesteads were offered for settlement by the federal government.

Culture:

The community is comprised primarily of homesteaders. The last location of BLM's homesite program, individuals received 5 acres of free land in Slana. However, the lack of road access to these properties has created conflicts between land owners. There are approximately 80 people in Slana.

Facilities:

Individual wells are the primary source of water in Slana; others draw water from Rufus Creek. The schools operate individual wells. Outhouses, honeybuckets and septic systems are used for sewage disposal. Approximately one third of the homes have complete plumbing. A feasibility study has been funded to examine system alternatives. Funds have been requested for a watering point at the new Community Center/Clinic. The community received electric service in 2006.

Transportation:

Slana has road access to the statewide system by the Glenn and Richardson Highways. Individual adjacent lots have no roads and owners must hike through other's private property. The nearest public airstrip is south, at Chistochina.